

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-27 (canceled)

28. (currently amended) An isolated fragment of v-IL-6 that binds an interleukin-6 ("IL-6") receptor and consisting of the amino acid sequence (residues 87-105 of SEQ ID NO:2) GFNETSCLKKLADGFFEFE.

29. (previously presented) The fragment of claim 28, which binds to a human IL-6 receptor.